



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 4/13/2009

**GAIN Report Number:** VE9032

## Venezuela

### Agricultural Situation

### Venezuela Ports

**2009**

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**Report Highlights:**

Post provides an informal summary of an interview between Mr. Henrique Salas Feo, Carabobo State Governor, and Nitu Perez Osuna from television station Globovision, covering the status of Venezuelan ports.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Caracas [VE1]  
[VE]

## Executive Summary

Post provides an informal summary of key topics related to Venezuelan seaports and concerns about their operation, per an interview with the Governor of Carabobo State, Mr. Henrique Salas Feo, by journalist Nitu Perez Osuna of Globovision.

**Date:** 04/03/2009

**Program:** Yo Prometo (I Promise)

The main topic of this interview was the new Law of Decentralization recently created by the Venezuelan Government which affects all Venezuelan seaports and airports. This interview focused on Puerto Cabello, Venezuela's main seaport, located in Carabobo State. The Law now gives control of port facilities to the central government.

Puerto Cabello is one of the most important ports in Venezuela; about 80 percent of Venezuela's general trade, imports or exports, transits this facility. According to Governor Salas, the enormous number of shipping containers that are being held there is combining with other logistical problems, so that the line of trucks waiting to enter the port is leading to a collapse of transportation in the port city, and food products are taking longer than necessary to be delivered to consumers.

## Important Information, According to the Governor

- There are 18,000 containers in the port. Some of them have been there for a year.
- Of these 18,000 containers, 8,000 contain PDVAL foods, including perishable foods. There are approximately 20 tons of food in every container, which means 160,000 tons of stored foods.
- According to the interview, every container pays the yard owner Bs. 13,500 (about UD\$6,300 at the official exchange rate) per day.
- In 1991, it took 163 hours for a container to be transported from the port.
- In 2004, containers only stayed 33 hours (about 1.5 days) in the port yard.
- Approximately 1,500 trucks come into the port daily to pick up containers. Currently, they can not transit easily due to the huge number of containers which blocks roads inside the port.
- Other PDVAL container yards have been detected in other locations. Additionally, since there is not enough room for them in Puerto Cabello, some containers are held in Kingston, Jamaica, Cartagena, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Panama for onward transport to Venezuela.